

Appl. No. 09/663,554
Amtd. dated July 23, 2003
Reply to Office Action of May 9, 2003

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prasad et al. (US 6,539,381 B1) hereinafter referred to as Prasad. In this response, Applicant amends claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 10, 13, 15 and 17, and cancels claims 2, 9 and 16 without prejudice. Hence, claims 1, 3-8, 10-15, and 17-20 remain pending.

Claim 1 is amended to include limitations similar to those of claim 2 which is now cancelled. As amended, claim 1 provides a method for gathering information for a directory on a packet switched network. The method includes, *inter alia*, determining a directory that is related to a first web site, wherein the directory identifies a first plurality of content objects tagged in accordance with a predetermined set of content object classes. This directory is reported to a second web site that organizes and/or maintains a global directory based on the same predetermined set of content object classes. The directory reported from the first web site is used in relation to identified content objects from other web sites to form the global directory. Where changes are detected on the first web site, the changes are provided to the second web site where they can be included in the global directory.

As further detailed in the specification, the advantages of such a method include a directory organized in accordance with a set of content object classes that makes content objects easily accessible to a consumer. Further, the approach provides for proactively updating this directory of content objects thus assuring a reasonably up to date representation of the availability of a given content object.

Thus, as just one exemplary embodiment on which claim 1 reads, a client computer can attach to an active directory in search of a desired content object. A catalog of content objects available from various content sources is displayed to the client computer. The displayed content objects can be organized in a hierarchy of subject categories and/or genre categories. For example, the first page might show a number of topics of general interest from which the user selects sports. In the next page, which is one level down in the hierarchy, a number of sports are displayed. From this page, the user may select football, and the San Diego

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Chargers may be displayed on this selected page. Upon selecting the San Diego Chargers a user may be presented with a number of content objects relevant to the San Diego Chargers which the user can then select. Upon selection, the user can be redirected to another server from which the selected content object can be accessed.

In contrast to claim 1, Prasad discloses a system for synchronizing replicas of a distributed database across a plurality of servers. See e.g., Prasad at col. 3, ll. 24-27. This synchronization system can be used to update replicas of resources such as servers, printers and the like that are accessible via the network. See e.g., Prasad at col. 6, ll. 40-46; col. 8, ll. 21-29. Thus, a global directory of resources on a network is created and replicated across multiple servers to provide access to network resources, regardless of where the resources are located. See e.g., Prasad at col. 8, ll. 6-13. As an advantage, Prasad offers the ability to replicate such a global directory across multiple servers without requiring each of the servers to be interconnected. See e.g., Prasad at col. 3, ll. 1-5.

This replication is illustrated in Fig. 2 of Prasad where the replicated global directory identifies network resources as individual nodes organized in relation to location of the resource. See e.g., Prasad at col. 8, ll. 30-63. Thus, for example, where a printer resource is to be configured, a network manager would select the root (203), then the country (204) in which the printer would be located, then the organization (205) to which the user belongs, and ultimately a printer (216) belonging to that organization. See e.g., Prasad at col. 8, ll. 30-63. Thus, where a network manager is aware of the printer and which organization the printer belongs, such an organization allows a network manager to easily manage the network. Prasad at col. 8, ll. 27-29. However, this organization stands in stark contrast to that provided in claim 1, and indeed is not even useful to a consumer trying to identify and/or access a content object where only the genre of the content object is known. Thus, Prasad does not disclose, teach or suggest the organization of content objects as provided in claim 1. Further, Prasad does not disclose, teach or suggest the organizing of content objects according to subject matter prior to reporting the directory to be included in a global directory as further provided in claim 3. Accordingly, Prasad fails to disclose, teach or suggest each limitation of Applicant's claim 1.

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Hence, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1, and allowance thereof.

Further, claims 8 and 15 include limitations substantially similar to that argued in relation to claim 1. Hence, for at least this reason, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 8 and 15, and allowance thereof. Additionally, claims 3 -7, 10-14, and 17-20 all properly depend from one of the allowable independent claims 1, 8 and 15. For at least this reason, claims 3-7, 10-14, and 17-20 are also in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,



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